Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).

2. (canceled).

3. (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 wherein said canister is removably attached to a housing for said pump.

4. (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 3 wherein said canister is removably received in a recess in the housing.

5. (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in ~~claim 3~~claim 8 wherein said tube is fitted as an interference fit into an interior portion of said porous pad.

6. (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in ~~claim 5~~claim 8 wherein said pad comprises a polymer foam having interconnecting cells.

7. (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 6 wherein said foam is a polyether reticulated foam having at least 95% interconnecting cells.

8. (currently amended): A therapeutic combination of promoting tissue healing, comprising:

a porous pad which is permeable to fluids;

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;

a canister for collecting fluids drawn through said tube, said canister being fluidly connected with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;

a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidly connected to said canister;

at least one bacterial filter between said canister and said pump; ~~and~~

an elastomeric film dressing having a pressure-sensitive adhesive in peripheral areas for securing said porous pad to the tissue within a sealed space; and

a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said suction pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

12. (canceled).

13. (withdrawn): A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:

a polyether reticulated foam pad which is permeable to fluids, said pad having at least 95% of interconnecting cells being adaptable for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;

a dressing for securing said pad in place by covering the wound and providing an air-tight seal around the wound and said pad, said dressing being an elastomeric polyurethane film which is coated at least in the peripheral areas with a pressure-sensitive adhesive;

a drainage tube fitted into the interior of said porous pad as an interference fit; a canister for collecting fluids sucked from the wound, said canister being connected to said pad through said drainage tube;

a suction pump for applying continuous or intermittent negative pressure to the wound, said pump being fluidically connected to said canister through a hose;

a bleed device provided between the canister and the pump to permit release of negative pressure during intermittent operation;

said canister further being removably received in a recess of a housing for said pump;

a bacterial filter contained in a portion of said canister in fluid communication between said canister and said pump; and

a capacitance sensor arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

14. (canceled).

15. (canceled).

16. (withdrawn): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 further comprising a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

17. (withdrawn): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 16 wherein said sensor comprises a capacitance sensor, said sensor being arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid.

18. (withdrawn): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 further comprising a sensor for detecting variance greater than a predetermined angle of said canister's vertical axis.

19. (withdrawn): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 18 wherein said predetermined angel is approximately 45°.

20. (withdrawn): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 18 wherein said sensor comprises a tilt sensor, said tilt sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said canister greater than said predetermined angle is detected.

21. (withdrawn): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 20 further comprising a delay circuit, said delay circuit being adapted to delay for a predetermined time period the discontinuation of negative pressure resulting from detection of tilting of said canister.

22. (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 90% interconnecting cells.

23. (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in ~~claim 22~~claim 8 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 95% interconnecting cells.

24. (canceled).

25. (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 further comprising a tilt sensor for determining tilting of said combination beyond a predetermined angle, said tilt sensor being associated with said suction pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said combination beyond said predetermined angle is detected.

26. (canceled).

27. (original): The therapeutic combination of claim 8, wherein the peripheral areas with the pressure-sensitive adhesive extend beyond the periphery of the porous pad for adhering to intact skin around the wound.

28. (withdrawn): An apparatus for prompting wound healing, the apparatus comprising:

a pad permeable to fluids and adapted to be positioned within a wound;

means for sealing the pad in the wound;

means for collecting fluids from the wound through said pad;

means for storing the fluids; and

means for preventing the fluids from contaminating the means for collecting fluids.

29. (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising means for disabling the means for storing the fluids if the means for storing is substantially full with fluid.

30. (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising means for disabling the means for collecting fluids if the apparatus tilts beyond a predetermined angle.

31. (new): A therapeutic combination of promoting tissue healing, comprising:

a porous pad which is permeable to fluids;

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;

a canister for collecting fluids drawn through said tube, said canister being fluidly connected with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;

a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidly connected to said canister;

at least one bacterial filter between said canister and said pump;

an elastomeric film dressing having a pressure-sensitive adhesive in peripheral areas for securing said porous pad to the tissue within a sealed space; and

a tilt sensor for determining tilting of said combination beyond a predetermined angle, said tilt sensor being associated with said suction pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said combination beyond said predetermined angle is detected.

32. (new): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 31 wherein said canister is removably attached to a housing for said pump.

33. (new): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 32 wherein said canister is removably received in a recess in the housing.

34. (new): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 31 wherein said tube is fitted as an interference fit into an interior portion of said porous pad.

35. (new): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 31 wherein said pad comprises a polymer foam having interconnecting cells.

36. (new): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 35 wherein said foam is a polyether reticulated foam having at least 95% interconnecting cells.

37. (new): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 31 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 90% interconnecting cells.

38. (new): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 31 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 95% interconnecting cells.

39. (new): The therapeutic combination of claim 31, wherein the peripheral areas with the pressure-sensitive adhesive extend beyond the periphery of the porous pad for adhering to intact skin around the wound.

40. (new): A therapeutic combination of promoting tissue healing, comprising:

a porous pad which is permeable to fluids;

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;

a canister for collecting fluids drawn through said tube, said canister being fluidly connected with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;

a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidly connected to said canister;

at least one bacterial filter between said canister and said pump;

an elastomeric film dressing having a pressure-sensitive adhesive in peripheral areas for securing said porous pad to the tissue within a sealed space;

a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said suction pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected; and

a tilt sensor for determining tilting of said combination beyond a predetermined angle, said tilt sensor being associated with said suction pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said combination beyond said predetermined angle is detected;

wherein said canister is removably attached to a housing for said pump and removably received in a recess in the housing;

wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 90% interconnecting cells; and

wherein the peripheral areas with the pressure-sensitive adhesive extend beyond the periphery of the porous pad for adhering to intact skin around the wound.